



Australian Bureau of Statistics

2081.0 - Australians' journeys through life: Stories from the Australian Census Longitudinal Dataset, ACLD Quality Declaration

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Australians' journeys through life - using Census data

The first Australian Census Longitudinal Dataset (ACL), *Australians' Journeys Through Life*, was released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) today. The ACL, Australia's largest longitudinal social dataset, is based on a sample of about 1 million records from the 2006 Census which has been combined with records from the 2011 Census.

The ACL was created by bringing together common characteristics of people from both Censuses, such as age, sex, geographic region and country of birth, without using names and addresses. Additional waves will be added to the ACL following future Censuses.

The Australian Statistician, Mr Brian Pink, said the release of the ACL is a significant milestone for statistics in Australia.

"It's the culmination of more than ten years work and public consultation, and will give researchers and policy makers access to an unprecedented data source about Australia's population. An Australian dataset of this depth and breadth has never been available before."

"The ACL provides new insights into the dynamics that drive social and economic change. Longitudinal datasets, like the ACL, allow community and governments to better evaluate the effects of social and economic policy decisions over time.

"For example, this dataset shows that almost half of Year 11 or 12 students in 2006 had moved into work (and were not undertaking higher study) in 2011, and almost a third were combining work with higher studies," said Mr Pink.

The ACL also shows:

- health care and social assistance and education and training industries had the highest staff retention rates at 63 per cent across both years
- of all people who provided care in either 2006 or 2011, only 20 per cent provided care in both years
- of all people who volunteered in either 2006 or 2011, one third did so in both years, and
- of recent migrants who had difficulty with spoken English in 2006, over half spoke English well or very well in 2011.

An article demonstrating the analysis that can be undertaken with the ACL is now available in *Australians' Journeys Through Life: Stories from the Australian Census Longitudinal Dataset* (ABS cat. no. 2081.0).

The ACL is available now, in TableBuilder format in Microdata: Australian Census Longitudinal

Dataset (ABS cat. no. 2080.0), from the ABS website.

Notes:

- When reporting ABS data you must attribute the Australian Bureau of Statistics (or ABS) as the source
- Higher study refers to study at Technical or Further Educational Institutions, TAFE Colleges, Universities or other Tertiary Institutions
- Care refers to provision of unpaid assistance to a person with a disability, long-term health condition or problems relating to old age.

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